

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer, Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk. Uk kundo Oohwaka, Nuisance & Abatement Coordinator, Lindsey Rader, City Attorney

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Demolition Procedures, Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer & Uk kundo Oohwaka, Nuisance & Abatement Coordinator

- Councilmember Simms asked Mrs. Andrews if the procedures were prepared in a chart. Mrs. Andrews stated that the procedures were not in a form of a chart.
- Councilmember Yeargin wanted to know if the Demolition Procedures can be placed in committee.
- Councilwoman Simms inquired if it could be placed in the Governmental Affairs & Technology committee.

- Council President Porter asked the Council if they had any objections to the Demolition Procedure being placed in the Governmental Affairs & Technology committee. The Council did not have any objections.
- Councilmember Raynor asked Mrs. Andrews how soon could the information on the Demolition procedures can be provided to him.
- Mrs. Andrews stated that she can have the information to him by Friday, March 8, 2013.

2.2. Charter Amendment on Borrowing

- Mrs. Rader provided explained the purpose of the Charter Amendment to the City Council.
- Councilmember Kennedy inquired on the old Police lot being owned by the City.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City is the owner of the former police lot on Addison Road.
- Mrs. Rader stated that the Charter Amendment is not specific for any project, but for any future development in the City.
- The City Council agreed to move forward with adopting the Charter Amendment.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. None

4. REPORTS:

4.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated that the City of Seat Pleasant has the opportunity to participate in the Communities of Distinction. The program is advertised on CNN Headline News, Fox Business and Regional News Network throughout the United States and Canada.
- The program uncovers stories on desirable areas to live, work, play and visit. They look for uniqueness in communities and the quality of life.
- He stated that Senator Benson is submitting proposed legislation SB1022 for Prince George's County-Green Business Zones. He has requested the City Council to write a letter of support, or call the office to go on record supporting or opposing any legislation that will impact our community.
- The Public Works Bond Bill hearing will be held this Saturday, March 9, 2013 on the House side in front of the Appropriations Committee at 1:00p.m., and the Senate side in front of the Budget & Taxation at 3:00p.m.

- Mayor Grant stated that the Tax Credit bill we are looking for calls and letter of support.
- Mayor Grant showed the City Council a video of the Front Royal, Virginia Council meeting from February 25, 2013. They were discussing the P3 project and Seat Pleasant City Center Project was mentioned in the meeting.
- Mayor Grant stated that a verbal agreement to purchase the Gaskin properties with a 45 day process after he signs the contract this week.
- Mayor Grant provided the City Council with a copy of the Subregion 4 Vision Map for Site 7.
- Mayor Grant read from the plan that states that “It is envisioned that this area will become a “main street” that builds upon the existing businesses and provides for new diverse commercial and retail uses within the neighborhood”.
- Mayor Grant stated that with the contract to purchase the building on Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway and acquire another property will support the subregion 4 site plans for the area.
- Mayor Grant stated that they have an investor interested in purchasing the properties behind the Gaskin building.
- Mayor Grant stated that the church will provide \$9,000 in escrow with a one year lease at \$1,500 per month. The barbershop pays \$2,200 per month on their lease.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Aberdeen site will be titled in Seat Pleasant name, but another entity will be purchasing the property.

4.2. City Administrator Report:

- Mr. Ashton stated that he has provided the Council with three documents that he wanted to discuss with the Council.
- He stated the first document pertains to the MOU on the MD704 project improvements.
- He stated that the sign of concern on Martin Luther King Highway belongs to the District of Columbia. He stated that there are markers states it is the District of Columbia property.
- Mayor Grant stated that they will be writing a letter to the Mayor and Council of the District of Columbia to give us the land. He stated that he will be meeting with our Senator to request her support.
- Councilwoman Simms inquired of the area to be ceded to the City. Mayor Grant stated we are only requesting the area by the sign. He stated that he believes he can appeal to a few of their Council

- Mr. Ashton provided the Council with a beautification application of yards in the City. He stated the information will be posted on the sign, in the churches and on the information stand for the Public Meeting. They will be putting the information in the Newsletter.

4.3. Council Committee Report

- **4.3b Finance & Budget Committee-**Councilmember Higgs stated that the Committee met on Friday, February 15, 2013. The committee discussed the last year's accomplishments. He stated that they were presented with an Accounting Procedure Manual.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he wanted to apologize to the City Council regarding the request he made of the City Clerk. He stated that he requested the City Clerk to order the iPad's, as he thought the Council consensus to purchase the iPad's was their vote of approval.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he needs the Council vote to approve the iPads.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the employee was instructed to send them back by her supervisor, and if it was not done the Council needs to go into a Closed Session to put something else in writing.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that this is something else the employee is not doing.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the iPads were ordered illegally and intentionally by the employee.
- Council President Porter stated that he would like to know the council person that instructed the supervisor to request for the employee to send them back.
- Council President Porter stated that it should have come before the full Council.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to have the employee provide the City Council with the proper legislation and accounting documentation to approve the purchase of the iPads. The motion carried.
- FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: Simms
- ABSTAIN: None
- Council President has requested the City Clerk to provide a legal opinion on the purchase of the iPads.
- **4.3d Human Services, Health & Education Committee-** Councilmember Simms stated that her committee discussion is under New Business.

• 5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Charter Amendment Resolution on Borrowing

- Council President Porter stated that the Charter Amendment Resolution will be read on Monday, March 11, 2013.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Charter Amendment Resolution on Borrowing with the changes to Section 3 and Section 4.

5.2. Farmers Market Budget

- Councilwoman Simms stated that no money was allocated in the budget for the Farmers Market.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that Ms. Barnes attended the Farmers Market Conference on February 28, 2013.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she provided Ms. Barnes with the \$30.00 Conference fee and \$10.00 for her lunch.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that a flyer was drafted and need changes as it pertains to the date of the market.
- The Council decided to have the market run from May 9, 2013 to October 3, 2013.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the flyer will be mailed to the farmers.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the signs will be done a different way with one sign in the air.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the market will be closer to Addison Road.
- The Council reviewed the draft flyer and made recommendations to include Homemade Jam/Jelly, Canned and Bottled preservative.
- The Council requested for the weekly rate for a table to be researched for the Farmers Market.

5.3. Monthly Meeting Chart Approval for Agenda Items and Electronic Packets

- Council President Porter stated that the chart was included in the Council meeting packet.
- Council President Porter stated that the chart provides the date when the agenda items are due and when the electronic packet will be sent to the City Council.
- Council President Porter requested the City Clerk to send the Chart to e-mail the Chart to the City Council.

5.4. Mayor's Funds Request for Fire Chief Community Advisory Board Bi-Monthly Meeting in May

- Mayor Grant stated that the Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc Bashoor would like to host the County bi-monthly meeting at the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department on May 23, 2013.
- Mayor Grant stated that the hosting location provides the food the meeting.
- Mayor Grant has requested that the Council approve \$1,000 for the meeting.
- The Council wanted to know where are the funds going to be deducted.
- Mayor Grant stated that it could come from the Administration Department.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Mayor's request of \$1,000 for the bi-monthly meeting with the Fire Chief with the City Administrator verifying the promotional activities line item in the Administration budget. The motion carried and was unanimously approved.

5.5. Update on MOU for the MD-704 Improvements

- Mr. Ashton stated that the information was addressed in the City Administrator report.

5.6. Review and Discuss Term Sheets for the City Center Project

- Council President Porter stated that the Council received an orange folder with the Term Sheets this evening to be discussed in a Special Meeting on Monday, March 11, 2013.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. Council Strategic Planning Retreat

- The City Council requested the City Administrator to review and provide to the City Council in writing what the Council had done after last year's retreat with regards to the goals and objectives.

6.2. Update on Purchase of Tax Credit Certificate Property located at 5815 Martin Luther King Jr., Hwy

- Mr. Ashton requested that the item be stricken from the record.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT

7.1. National League of Cities Congressional City Conference, 2660 Woodley Rd., N.W., Washington, DC; March 9-13, 2013

7.2. Public Session, Monday, March 11, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.

7.3. PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, March 21, 2013, location TBD.

ADJOURN-The meeting adjourned at 9:42pm

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk

APPROVED 04/08/13